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YOU WERE RIGHT, BILL / I CAN HEAR, THE NOISE PROMITHE.

BILL BOYD WESTERN THAT EARTHQUAKE
TOOK BOTH MY FARMING
AND MY HOME TOO!







BILL BOYD WESTERN WE'VE GOT A TOUGH TRP AHEAD OF US. BUT NOTHING'S GONNA STOP US FROM CRATING I PARM! WAS NOT THE STATE OF THE STATE



BILL BOYD WESTERN TO DO IN BET CHING FOR THOSE MEN AND WASCE WHILE WE'RE IN THE WATER CURRENTED. NOW TOBS THE ENDE IT'S A BACE AGAINST TIME ... W'

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BILL BOYD WESTERN IT'S MIGHTY PECULIAR THE HOLE SHOULD'VE O ED JUST WHEN THE WE WERE MID BAY ACCOM ACCIDENT THAT AND NO ACCIDENT THAT HOLE WAS HACKED OUT WITH AN ANE! TO BETTER HOT THE THEM ANYTHING OR TO JUST ALARM

BILL BOYD WESTERN THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED THE FRES! FROM NOW ON I'M SOME I GUESO WE CAN START FITCH ING CAMP RIGHT HERE! IT'S AS SOOD A SPOT AS ANY! TO KEEP MY EYES GPEN I



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# THE BLACK BANDANA

### By R. R. Symen

FINTHREE men rade by. They were astride fancily tooled Mexican leather saddles with silver decorations. Their boots and all their apparel appeared new and shiny. Their mounts were sleak well-fed and abstructs expensive Beaver Iones eved them, then looked down

at his own putched, faded levis, his cactus scraped boots, "Look at them and then look at me. Know what the difference is?" Beaver's companion said, "Huh?" "I'm an honest man, that's the difference!"

Beaver and savarely into the dust, "Those hombres can spend more greenbacks in a day then I make in a whole month. You know who they are? They're members of the Black Bandana's outfit, that's who. The Black Bare dams takes care of his hove. They're all right" "Yun! And they'll all wind un dancing at the end of a rone," asserted Monty Montana.

"Mabbe so, mebbe no," growled Beaver, "Leastwise their necks haven't felt anythine but allk so for. And there're not likely so starve to death. By jupiter, for two numeets of fools' gold. I'd go and join up with the "You wouldn't!" exclaimed Monty Montana.

"Yes I would, and I've got a dang good notion to," declared Beaver "What's the use of being honest if the outhors net all the

Monty was a mits worried. He knew his huddy. Reaver Jones, was a basically beneat fallow. But he knew, too, that sometimes the very best cow waddies were tempted to turn from the noth of righterus and was shale each

"I've got to figure out some way to keen him from doing anything foolish," mused Monty to himself. "He sounds plumb discourseed and that's not good at all!"

The Black Bandana was an outlaw who had had quite a streak of success. After a small start he had built up a large hand of renerades who might swoop down on a town, train or death to anyone who tried to Interfere. Some members of his outfit were known, or at least, strongly suspected. like the three who had ridden past Beaver and Monty. But nothing could be proved against them, and in their rich appearance, they seemed to make good

advertisements for the lawless life. As for the leader himself, it was rumored that no one, not even his most trusted lieutenants, had ever seen his face. He was ever concealed behind a black bandans, with only alits for eveholes. He was a man of mystery, and the very name "Black Bandana" brought a chill to many a heart

TOONTIME came, and Monty met his pal for lunch in the Longhorn Cafe. As they out into their thick steaks, Monty said, "Still feel like you did about joining up with the Block Bandana?" "Just let me get a glimpse at that owlhoot,

and you'll see how I feel!" blustered Beaver. "Well, I don't know how much truth there is to it," drawled Monty, "but there's a couple of tenderfeet in town elemine they saw a man wearing a black hanky shout a mile east of scared, they high-tailed into town without bothering to get the fellers culling card. Could he they only sow a shadow on a rock or some

Reaver Innes' eyes lit up with excitement. "I bet it was the Black Bandana!" he cried. "He's probably lurking out there, rounding up

recruits I He's probably spine to get up an sermy and rob the II S Mint And then the "Mebbe," said Monty. "Well, I aim to go out and palaver with

that hombre!" asserted Beaver, "Are you with "None" said Monty. "I try to avoid nole-

cats when I can." "Well. I'm on my way!" asserted Beaver. He left his helf-exten steak and rushed our

the front door. Monry took two more bates, then heatily

BEAVER spurred his paint to a rise not his stirrups and shaded his area to look this way and that way over the wasteland, He nearly popped out of his saddle when a muffled voice said, "Looking for something? Or some-

body?" Benver whirled and faced a horseman whose

face was antirely hodden by an ebony kerchief. "The Black Bandana" cried Beaver "Not Santa Claus, anyway," came book a chuckle, muffled by the cloth over the mouth.

"You're the hambre I'm looking for," said Beaver, after catching his breath. "How's for forning up with you?" "Well, you might do." Through the eve-slite

the masked man seemed to be sizing up Beaver. "How fast can you draw?" "Faster than anybody in the territory, ex-

cept maybe Monty Montana," declared Beaver. "Show me!" Reaver's hand flashed toward his holster

But before it was balfway there, he found himself face to face with a Colt. A churkle come from behind the black handene. "Right fest, I'd say, only not an feat so me. I wouldn't want to be used up with

anybody that could outdraw me/" The masked man holstered his Cols, much to Beaver's relief. "Reckon I could use you." "Will you take me to your hideaut?" asked

"Come along," was the response,

They rode side by side in silence for a short anace Then Reaver heard "Got any money on

"Most of my month's pay," responded Beaver, "It's not much. That's why I banker to join pp with you." "It'll do. And your horse. It looks like a

pretty good horse Should be worth something. And your gun Beaver wherled to find hymself once again

facing the Colt. "Out off?" was the muffled order!

Pootsore, weary, disgusted and angry, Beaver habbled into town. He was virtually harefooted for the rough terroin had worn through his son. Miles ago he had taken off the high-heeled cow-puncher boots, finding that they were the least practical thing ever

The first man be saw was Monty, lolling under the feed store awning, whittling, Monty raised his eyebrows, questioningly

"Yeb. I found him," growled Beaver, as if a question had been asked. "I found the Black Bandana, But he double-crossed me. That sidewinder stole my horse, my gun and my month's

nav! You can't even trust a robber, these Sparks, the telegrapher, looked at Beaver with amazement, "You found the Black Ban-

dans, you say? "Yes," asserted Beaver, "But he got the

"You must to mistaken," said Sparks, "I just got word that the Black Bandana and his

man were all arrested holding up a stagecoach about 50 miles south of here. He's in sail. He's been in sail all day." RAVER gave Monty a searching look. Monty looked back, then chuckled. He

took a black bandana from his potket, slipped it over his face, then said, in muffled votce, "Here's your surse and gun, nal. And you'll find your borse in the stable. I just couldn't sit by and let you turn to a life of crims."

"Life of crime?" world Reaver, "I was siming to get rich by collecting the reward on Black Bandana, I was going to join his gang. find the hide-out, then turn him over to the

law. I never did intend to join up with him!" THE END

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